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Making sense of the world

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

THE WEEK

Junior

HOPE FOR A RHINO

Scientists try a bold experiment to save the northern white rhino from extinction **p14**





This week's big news

TAKING A STAND

America's first major protest was in 1773, when colonists staged the Boston Tea Party to fight taxes imposed on them by Britain.



The parade in Washington, DC



A protest in San Francisco, California

About the National Guard



The National Guard began in the 1600s. It consists of part-time soldiers in the US Army and Air Force who are trained and ready to be called into service. They can be deployed by a state or President to help with local emergencies such as natural disasters or military operations overseas.

Widespread unrest throughout nation

In recent days, the US has faced major political upheaval and division. A military parade took place in the nation's capital on the same day that millions of people gathered around the US to protest President Donald Trump's policies. Meanwhile, California fought the federal government on immigration policy and a tragedy shook the state of Minnesota.

What was the parade?

On June 14, a military parade in Washington, DC, marked 250 years since the creation of the US Army. The day was also Trump's 79th birthday. A parade like this, which is typically held in the US only to celebrate victory in war or a return of military personnel, had not taken place in the nation's capital for more than 30 years. Trump looked on as 128 armored tanks rolled down the streets and military planes and helicopters flew overhead. About 6,000 troops marched in formation, some wearing historical uniforms recognizing the Army's past. Estimates of the number of people who attended ranged from 250,000 to fewer than 200,000.

What were the protests?

Also on June 14, people marched, chanted, and waved signs in more than 2,000 cities

and towns across the US to protest Trump's policies and what protesters said was his authoritarian (one ruler with total power) style of government. Organizers, who called it the "No Kings Nationwide Day of Defiance," said more than 5 million people participated. The demonstrations, which were mostly peaceful, were planned to coincide with the military parade because many people believe Trump used the parade for his own political gain.

What happened in California?

As part of the Trump administration's efforts to remove people who are in the US without legal permission, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency arrested people in Los Angeles, California. ICE has been accused of wrongfully detaining people without a fair legal process, however, and thousands of people protested the arrests on June 6. Although most demonstrations were peaceful, some people threw objects at police and damaged cars and buildings. In response, Trump deployed 4,000 California National Guard troops and 700 US Marines. The move was unusual because National Guard actions within a state are typically controlled by its governor rather than the President. In this case, Trump went

against California's governor, Gavin Newsom, who did not want the National Guard involved and said that a military presence would only escalate tensions. California filed a lawsuit in court against the US government. On June 12, a federal judge ruled against the Trump administration, giving control of the National Guard back to Newsom. The US government then appealed the ruling, and a higher court paused the decision while it reviews the case.

What happened in Minnesota?

On the morning of June 14, two Minnesota state lawmakers and their spouses were shot in what law enforcement officials called politically motivated attacks. Melissa Hortman, the top Democrat in the Minnesota House of Representatives, and her husband were killed. State Senator John Hoffman and his wife were injured and were in serious condition in a hospital. A man named Vance Boelter was arrested for the shootings on June 15, after what officials said was the largest manhunt in Minnesota's history.

What will happen next?

Investigations into the shootings that took place in Minnesota are ongoing. As *The Week Junior* went to press, a decision about the California National Guard was expected from the court. The verdict may be appealed to the US Supreme Court (nation's highest court of law).



Gavin Newsom



Conflict between Israel and Iran

Fighting has broken out between Israel and Iran, two countries in the Middle East with a long history of hostility. The conflict began on June 13. Israel launched an attack on Iran, which responded with an assault on Israel. The nations continued to trade fire, and tensions escalated.

Israel said it was acting in self-defense to prevent Iran from developing powerful nuclear weapons that could be used against Israel and other countries. Israel's initial attack killed top Iranian military leaders and nuclear scientists. On June 16, Israel bombed Iran's government-operated TV broadcaster. More than 220 people have died in Iran, and 24 have died in Israel.

Iran has denied making the weapons and said its nuclear program is used only for peaceful purposes, like generating electricity. Iran also said it will not back down from fighting started by Israel. Political experts are concerned that the US could be drawn into the conflict because it is an ally of Israel's. When *The Week Junior* went to press, US leaders were meeting to discuss the situation.



WATER AND AIR
Oceans cover about 70% of the Earth and produce about 70% of the oxygen humans breathe.

UN Ocean Conference held in France

The third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) was held from June 9–13 in Nice, France. Attendees from nearly 200 countries called for action to protect the world's oceans. The US did not attend the event.

The United Nations (UN, a group of 193 countries) first held the Ocean Conference in 2017. This year's event had the highest attendance ever with about 15,000 people, including scientists, business and nonprofit leaders, and more than 60 heads of government. Topics included overfishing, plastic pollution, climate change, and a call for oversight of activities that harm the environment, like mining for minerals in the deep sea.

The week's most pressing issue was the High Seas Treaty, the first global document regulating ocean protection. Created in 2023, it would allow

countries to establish protected areas in 30% of international waters. At UNOC3, 18 countries signed the treaty, bringing the total number of signers to 49. Eleven more are needed for it to become law, which is expected to happen this year. The US signed the agreement in 2023.

More than 800 other commitments were also made. For example, French Polynesia pledged to create the world's largest marine protected area. The European Commission (part of the European Union, a group of 27 nations) announced an investment of more than \$1 billion to support conservation, science, and sustainable fishing.

The Ocean Conference "has given us a glimmer of hope that the challenges facing our ocean are being seen and will be tackled," said Tony Long, head of the nonprofit Global Fishing Watch.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A GIGANTIC GAME

A total of 1,423 children and family members in Anaheim, California, set a record for the largest game of Red Light, Green Light. Local police officers and firefighters also joined in. "My face hurt from smiling," said an onlooker.

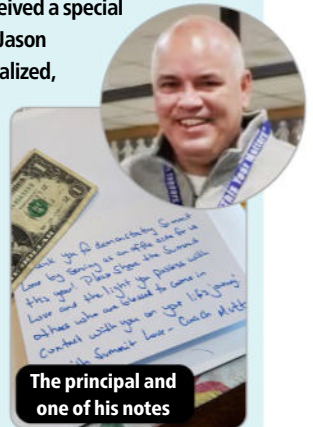


A SURPRISING FIND

More than 1,000 rare gold coins found hidden in the wall of a house in France sold for \$3.48 million at auction. Their owner, who died last year at age 89, had built the collection over his lifetime and kept it stashed away. Some of the coins were more than 2,300 years old.

HANDWRITTEN NOTES

All 443 graduates of Mansfield Summit High School in Texas received a special gift from principal Jason Mutterer: a personalized, handwritten note highlighting their achievements and a \$1 bill. He said a teacher once wrote him a similar note. "I love my job," he told *Today*. "But I love my students even more."





LANDMARK LEGISLATION

In 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act became a law to ensure that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as others.

Ava Tharpe (center) with her parents

Supreme Court season



The US Supreme Court follows a calendar similar to a school year. After opening its "term" on the first Monday in October, the nine justices (above) listen to arguments in about 80 cases through April. Then they write their rulings and release most of them in June, which has come to be known as "decision season."

Supreme Court decides disability case

The US Supreme Court (nation's highest court of law) has ruled that students with disabilities can use the courts to enforce their right to a fair education. The justices were unanimous (all in agreement) in their decision, ruling 9–0 in favor of a student in the case of *AJT v. Osseo Area Schools*.

What was the case?

Ava Tharpe, a teenager with serious disabilities caused by a rare form of a brain disorder called epilepsy, and her parents filed a lawsuit (legal dispute) against Osseo Area Schools in 2020. The family argued that the school district, located in Minnesota, should repay the money they spent on Ava's education before her instructional needs were met. When the Tharpes first moved to Minnesota, Ava received 65% of the classroom

instruction other students received. That's because she had so many seizures in the morning hours that she needed to learn in the afternoon and early evening, which the district did not accommodate for years. The lower courts ruled that the Tharpes were not entitled to have their expenses reimbursed because they hadn't proved the school had acted in "bad faith." The case then went to the Supreme Court for a final ruling.

What did the justices say?

The Supreme Court reversed the lower courts' decision, ruling that the Tharpes could be entitled to reimbursement for compensatory damages, including the money they spent on educators and legal fees. The justices said it was an unfair burden to ask the Tharpes to prove the school had acted in

bad faith. Instead, the Tharpes only had to prove the school acted with "deliberate indifference."

How did people react?

"This is bigger than our family," said Aaron Tharpe, Ava's father. He said the ruling gives other families a way to fight for a fair education for their children. Osseo Area Schools spokeswoman Kay Villella said the district is committed to the "principles and the ideals" of disability laws.

What will happen next?

The Supreme Court's decision did not settle the Tharpes' lawsuit. It will be sent back to a lower court, where a judge will determine whether the school system acted with "deliberate indifference." Ava will begin her senior year of high school this fall.



WORD OF THE WEEK

POSSUM

The full name of the animal we commonly call a "possum" is "opossum," which comes from the Algonquian language and means "white dog." The possum is a marsupial, a mammal that is carried in a pouch on its mother's belly. "Marsupial" comes from the Greek marsupion, meaning "pouch."



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

June 26, 2015

Same-sex marriage ruled legal

On June 26, 2015, the US Supreme Court (the nation's highest court) ruled that people of the same sex have the right to marry each other in all 50 states. In a 5–4 decision in the case, called *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the justices said it was a violation of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution (nation's highest law) for the government to ban same-sex marriage or refuse to recognize same-sex unions.



The Supreme Court building



USNS
Medgar Evers

Controversy over ship renaming

After the Department of Defense announced its intention to rename the USNS Medgar Evers and seven other US military ships that honor activists, the Evers family urged the government to reverse its decision. The ship was named for Evers (1925–1963), a World War II veteran and civil rights leader, in 2009. His daughter, Reena Evers-Everette, called the idea to rename it “an injustice to a man who fought for his country both at home and abroad.”



A view of
Kilauea

Volcano in Hawaii erupts again

On June 11, a volcano located on the southern shore of Hawaii’s Big Island began erupting for the 25th time since December 2024. The Kilauea volcano, one of the most active in the world, spewed lava for about eight hours. Although some of it reached more than 1,000 feet into the air, it didn’t threaten nearby communities. The volcano is likely to erupt again, but officials can’t predict when.



Grammy
trophies

New categories for Grammys

The Grammy Awards, the most prestigious prizes in the music industry, will feature new categories starting in 2026. The categories are Best Traditional Country Album, Best Contemporary Country Album (formerly Best Country Album), and Best Album Cover, which will honor artists who create an album cover’s design. The 2026 Grammy nominations will be announced in November.



The Klamath
River in California

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 574 recognized Native American tribes in the US with a wide range of languages, traditions, and ways of life.

Land returned to Yurok Tribe in California

About 73 square miles of land in California has been returned to its original occupants, the Yurok Tribe. The land more than doubles the tribe’s territory and is believed to be the largest area of land returned to a tribe in California’s history.

The Yurok Tribe, with nearly 6,500 members, is the largest in the state. Its ancestral land was based around the Klamath River in northwestern California. Most of this land was taken from the tribe in the mid-1800s by American settlers. For more than 100 years, the land was owned by timber companies that cut down trees and sold them as wood.

The Yurok Tribe began working with the Western Rivers Conservancy, a nonprofit group, 23 years ago to find a way to buy back the land from its owner, the Green Diamond Resource Company. The purchase price of \$56 million was raised from many different funding sources, and the buyback took place in several phases, starting in 2009 and ending recently. “The

Yurok Tribe has the resources and the deep cultural connections that sustained this land for millennia, and now they can continue to do so,” said Nelson Mathews of the conservancy.

The purchase represents a continuation of a movement to return land to Indigenous people (first people known to have inhabited a place). Starting in 2012, the US government operated a land buyback program for 10 years, returning nearly 4,700 square miles of land to 50 tribes in 15 states.

Much of the land returned to the Yurok is located along the Klamath. This river was once an important source of salmon, but man-made projects reduced the population. The tribe now plans to oversee a salmon sanctuary and a community forest to replace trees that were cut down.

“We are forging a sustainable future for the fish, forests, and our people that honors both ecological integrity and our cultural heritage,” said Joseph L. James, chairman of the Yurok Tribe.



The Yurok Tribe’s seal

THE WEEK’S SILLIEST HEADLINE

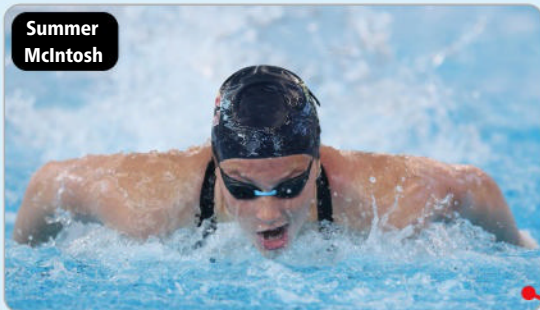
“Mystery sheep on the lam wrangled in Milwaukee” *UPI*





Around the world

Summer McIntosh



Paris, France Olympic cauldron rises again

A year after France hosted the Summer Olympics, the iconic cauldron created for the Games has returned to the Tuileries Garden. Now renamed the Paris Cauldron, the ring-shaped vessel with an electric "flame" is attached to a 98-foot, helium-filled balloon. Each night for three summers, it will rise into the sky, becoming visible across the city.

The Cauldron



Victoria, Canada Teen swimmer breaks records

Summer McIntosh, age 18, broke three world records at the Canadian Swimming Trials from June 7–12. She set new records in the 400-meter freestyle and 200-meter individual medley, then broke her own world record in the 400-meter individual medley. She is the first swimmer to break this many individual records at the same competition since Michael Phelps broke three at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China.



Some of the protesters



Barcelona, Spain Protesters spray water at tourists

On June 15, people who are angry about the increase in visitors to Barcelona started squirting tourists with water guns. Locals have also been spraying graffiti across the city with messages such as "Tourists go home." Last year, 26 million tourists visited Barcelona, which has a population of 1.6 million residents. Protests against high levels of tourism have taken place across Spain as well as in Italy and Portugal.



The quake caused landslides.



Lima, Peru Earthquake affects coast

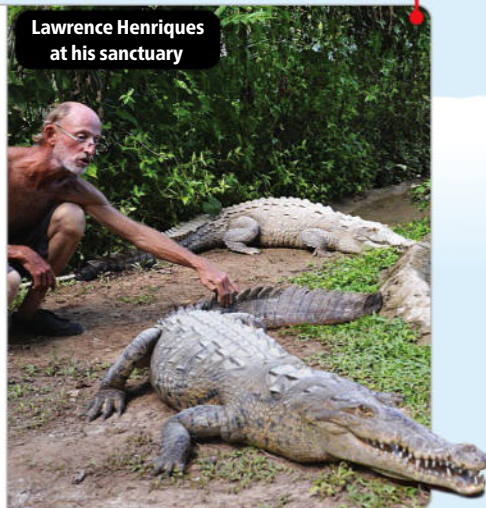
A 5.6 magnitude earthquake hit Peru's central coast near the capital, Lima, on June 15. One person died, five were treated for injuries, and several buildings were damaged. Peru is in a region called the Ring of Fire, which experiences frequent earthquakes. Dina Boluarte, the president of Peru, went to the affected area to monitor the situation and urged residents to remain calm.



Morant Point, Jamaica Crocodile rescue mission

Lawrence Henriques, known as "the crocodile guardian," has spent the past 40 years protecting American crocodiles in their native Jamaica. At his crocodile sanctuary, he nurtures the young, tends to sick animals, and restores them to the wild. Crocodiles are often killed because people fear them, Henriques says, so he tries to teach adults and children to live with them. "They're not pests," Henriques told CNN. "They're survivors."

Lawrence Henriques at his sanctuary



Around the world



The replanted garden

Pompeii, Italy **Lost garden re-created**

A garden destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE has been re-created in the ancient Roman ruins of Pompeii. Experts found traces of flowers and olive trees at a site where they think plants were grown to create natural perfumes. Now the garden has been replanted with vines, fruit trees, rosemary, roses, and violets.



South Korea's speaker system

Seoul, South Korea **Loudspeakers turned off**

South Korea turned off loudspeakers near its northern border, which had been broadcasting K-pop music and messages about life in South Korea to people in North Korea. The two countries separated in 1948. South Korea is a democracy, where people vote for their leader. In North Korea, the government has total control over citizens and the information they receive. Stopping the broadcast is an attempt to restore trust between the nations.



An otter café

Tokyo, Japan **Otter café connections investigated**

Animal cafés, where customers can meet animals like cats, pigs, and otters, are popular in Tokyo. But a recent study suggests that some otters in Tokyo cafés may have been captured illegally. The animals' DNA (chemical that carries all the information about a living thing) matched wild otter populations in areas of Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore that have been linked to illegal trade. Researchers urged people to reconsider visiting the cafés.



Part of the tomb

Maarat al-Numan, Syria **Historic tombs uncovered**

A construction worker has uncovered a 1,500-year-old tomb complex underneath buildings ruined in Syria's civil war (conflict between groups within a country). The complex contains 12 stone tombs in two chambers. Partly because a carving of a cross was found, the tomb is thought to date back to the Byzantine era (324–1453), when Christianity was the official religion.

Bujumbura, Burundi **Ruling party wins election**

The ruling political party of Burundi has retained power in an election that was called unfair by Human Rights Watch, a global organization that monitors rights and freedoms. Election officials said the CNDD-FDD party won 96% of the vote in all provinces, but critics said people were not free to vote as they wished. In Burundi, people who speak out against the government are frequently arrested.



The president of Burundi



The big debate

Should we stop using leather?

Some people say there are plenty of alternatives being developed.

What you need to know

- Leather, which most often comes from cows, is a material made by treating animal skins with chemicals in a process called tanning.
- Leather is used to make many items, including shoes, jackets, bags, belts, furniture, and sports equipment.
- The leather industry has been criticized for its treatment of animals and effect on the environment.
- Synthetic leather sales are predicted to double by 2032. Synthetic leather is made from non-animal materials.



People have used leather for thousands of years, from clothing made by early humans to modern car seats and shoes. However, leather alternatives are becoming more popular, as people seek materials that look and feel like leather but don't come from an animal. Synthetic leather has its advantages, but it is also made using chemicals that can harm the environment. Recently, experts have been experimenting by growing "real" leather from animal cells (the basic building blocks of all living things) in a lab and making leather-like material from plants, with some success. What do you think? Should we stop using leather?

Yes—it's no longer needed

Many people think it's unacceptable to wear a fur coat, so why is it OK to wear a leather one? It's still made from an animal. And most of the leather we use is from cows, which produce methane gas that warms the planet. Leather production also pollutes air and water and exposes workers to harmful chemicals. Scientists and designers are creating beautiful alternative leathers made from pineapple, mushroom, or cactus plants, and leather is also being grown in a lab without harming animals. These alternative materials are stylish, cheaper, and don't use any part of an animal, so why wouldn't we use them instead?

No—it's still the best option

Many people around the world eat meat, so it makes sense to use those animal skins for leather instead of letting them go to waste. Leather is a natural material that's breathable and long-lasting, and when it does finally wear out, it biodegrades (breaks down) on its own. Many fake leathers are made from some type of plastic. This might not harm animals directly, but it does harm the environment. Plus, artificial leather is not as tough as real leather, which could mean you have to replace items more often. And because it can't usually be recycled, it only adds to the problem of plastic pollution.

YES Three reasons we should stop using leather

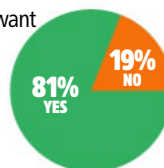
- 1 Using leather is no better than wearing a fur coat, which many people won't do.
- 2 Making leather causes pollution, uses a lot of water, and exposes workers to harmful chemicals.
- 3 Thanks to science, there are cheaper plant-based and lab-grown leather alternatives being developed.

NO Three reasons we should not stop using leather

- 1 Many people eat meat, so creating leather prevents animal skins from going to waste.
- 2 Real leather is a natural, high-quality, long-lasting material that breaks down on its own when it's discarded.
- 3 Artificial leather is often made from plastic, which comes with its own set of environmental issues.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if we should keep rebuilding beaches. Your votes were clear: Most of you want to put sand back onto beaches that have lost it.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think we should stop using leather or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



A famous voice returns

Chris Sanders has brought the beloved character of Stitch to life in a new way.

The new live-action remake of the 2002 animated classic *Lilo & Stitch* premiered on May 23 and quickly became the biggest hit of the summer so far. It set a Memorial Day weekend record with \$183 million in US ticket sales and continues to dominate theaters. Chris Sanders, who co-wrote and co-directed the original film with Dean DeBlois, voiced Stitch and stepped back into the role for the remake.

Growing up in a creative family in Colorado Springs, Sanders loved to draw. He was a cartoonist for his high school newspaper, and he graduated from the animation program at the California Institute of the Arts in 1984. Sanders has since worked on numerous animated classics, including *Mulan* (1998), *How to Train Your Dragon* (2010), and *The Croods* (2013). Recently, he directed *The Wild Robot* (2024), which

was nominated for three Academy Awards earlier this year.

Sanders first came up with the idea for *Lilo & Stitch* as a children's book in 1986. Years later, he pitched it as a film to Disney, illustrating it himself. The story follows

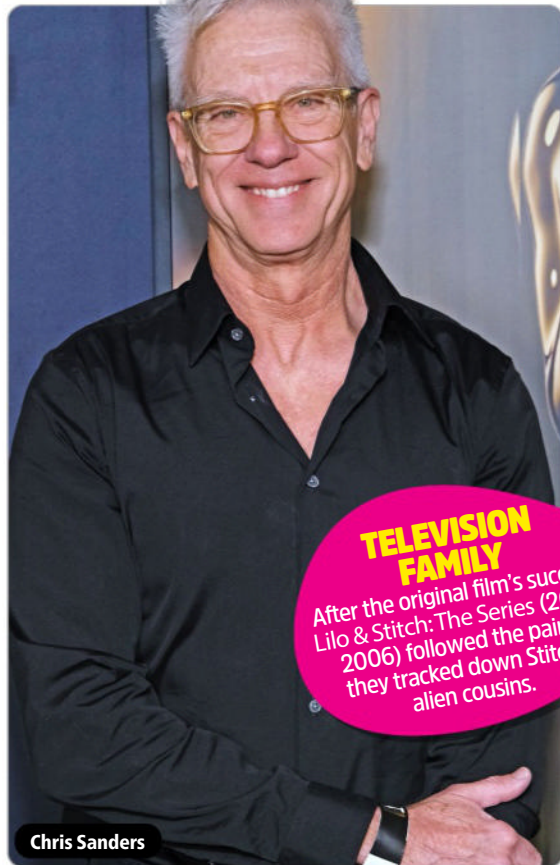
Stitch, a destructive alien who crash-lands in Hawaii and is adopted by Lilo, a girl raised by her older sister. As Lilo teaches Stitch about *ohana* (the Hawaiian word for "family"), he begins to change for the better.

The film went on to earn an Academy Award nomination for best animated feature.

After more than 20 years, Sanders said he never expected Stitch to be so widely embraced. "The mistakes [Stitch] makes and his desire to fix things—that's why people have always identified with him," he told reporters, adding that he plans to "do this voice for as long as I possibly can."



Live-action Stitch



Chris Sanders

TELEVISION FAMILY

After the original film's success, *Lilo & Stitch: The Series* (2003–2006) followed the pair as they tracked down Stitch's alien cousins.

Writing to inspire

British author Julia Donaldson is writing a new story for her famous Gruffalo character in a book due out in 2026. First published in 1999, with illustrations by Axel Scheffler, *The Gruffalo* has since sold more than 18 million copies worldwide. It is about a mouse who invents a fearsome creature named the Gruffalo to scare predators but then meets the real Gruffalo and must outsmart him to escape danger. Donaldson said she was inspired to write the new book to help support a campaign in the UK that encourages more kids to read for fun.



Julia Donaldson

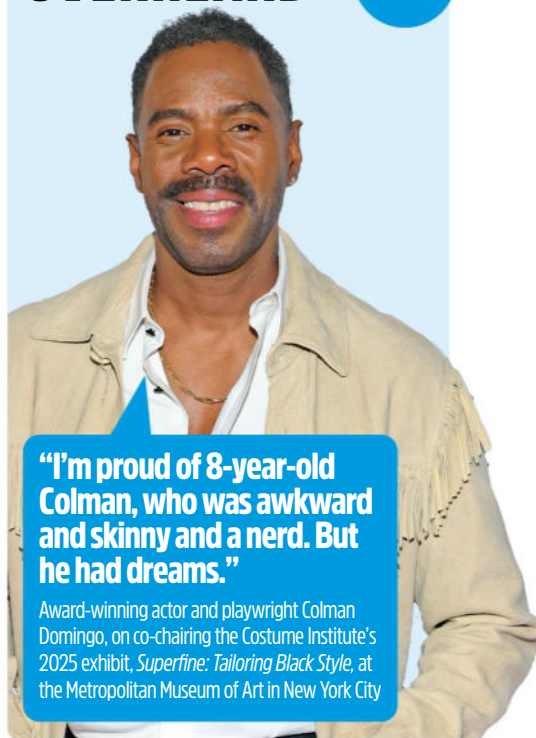


Ayami Sato

A sports trailblazer

Japanese baseball star Ayami Sato made history on May 18 by becoming the first woman to play on a professional men's baseball team in Canada. She was the starting pitcher for the Toronto Maple Leafs Baseball Club's home opener. Sato began playing baseball at age 9, inspired by games of catch with her brother. Over her career, she helped Japan win seven straight Women's Baseball World Cup titles (2008–2024), more than any other team in the tournament's history. After the historic game, Sato said she wants to demonstrate hope to girls and boys though playing baseball.

OVERHEARD



"I'm proud of 8-year-old Colman, who was awkward and skinny and a nerd. But he had dreams."

Award-winning actor and playwright Colman Domingo, on co-chairing the Costume Institute's 2025 exhibit, *Superfine: Tailoring Black Style*, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City



Animals and the environment



NEST NOTE
Flamingos' nests are volcano-shaped mounds of mud that hold one egg at a time.

Two flamingos eating in a lagoon

A starling's inner circle

Superb starlings (below) rely on helpers to raise their chicks. A study found that up to 16 other birds help each set of parents feed their chicks and keep predators away. Birds give support to their relatives as well as to unrelated individuals—which “sounds like friendship,” a researcher said.



Flamingos stir up a feeding frenzy

When it's time for a snack, a flamingo bends down and sticks its head underwater to snap up tasty morsels like algae and shrimp. From above, the process may look calm, but a new study has revealed what is actually going on under the surface: The birds are creating swirling, tornado-like vortexes of water to trap their prey.

Victor Ortega Jiménez became interested in flamingos while watching their behavior at a zoo. “Flamingos are actually predators,” Jiménez explained. “They are actively looking for animals that are moving in the water, and the problem they face is how...to pull them together and feed.”

Capturing prey is especially challenging for flamingos because they often eat tiny, fast-moving creatures such as brine shrimp and microscopic crustaceans called copepods.



The birds create swirls of water.

Jiménez teamed up with other scientists to study three Chilean flamingos from the Nashville Zoo. With high-speed cameras, they recorded the birds feeding in a large, clear container. The researchers used a laser to light up gas bubbles in the water and created 3D models of a flamingo's

feet and beak so they could study their movement carefully. Finally,

Jiménez attached a real flamingo beak to a device that re-created its movements.

Their findings showed how a feeding flamingo pulls in its prey by creating vortexes in the water. The bird does a kind of dance, stomping its webbed feet to stir up prey and other materials from the bottom of the lake. Then it pulls its head upward, creating a sort of mini tornado of water that sucks the food up toward the surface. Meanwhile, the bird does something called chattering, which involves quickly moving its lower beak while the upper beak stays still. This creates smaller vortexes that bring the prey into the flamingo's mouth.

Finally, the beak's comb-like edges hold in prey while the water passes through—a process known as filter feeding. Jiménez said flamingos' bodies and behavior are designed especially well for this method, turning them into “highly specialized, super feeding machines.”



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, Japan

This national park is made up of a collection of separate areas, including Mount Fuji, Hakone, the Izu Islands, and the Fuji Five Lakes. Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins swim in the park's coastal waters, while Japanese clawed salamanders can be found in its forests and rivers. It is the most visited park in Japan. Many locals go there to enjoy the light pink blooms of sansho-bara (“prickly ash rose”) in the spring and summer, and in fall visitors can see the purple flowers of the Fuji thistle, whose edible roots can be pickled with miso paste.



Fuji thistles



FEET LIKE SNOWSHOES

Lynx have wide, webbed feet that help them walk across snow without sinking.



A Eurasian lynx

Barriers for humans also stop animals

Over the past 30 years, the number of walls and other barriers that have been installed to stop humans from moving between countries has increased. A recent study has found that these barriers also have an impact on wildlife.

The study looked at a 115-mile-long wall that Poland set up along its border with Belarus in 2022. The wall sliced through a forest and separated populations of bison, elk, lynx, and wolves. Researchers found that the wall stopped larger animals from moving freely through the forest. Animals wouldn't approach the wall

because they were afraid of it. The researchers placed 36 cameras along the wall for more than a year, and lynx appeared only twice.

Another study published this year showed that border walls interfere with the ranges of more than 700 species of mammals, including cheetahs, tigers, leopards, and endangered Saiga antelopes. It found that the wall between the US and Mexico affects 120 mammal species. Experts said one solution could be building wildlife crossings into these barriers or opening gates to let animals pass through them.

Animal of the week

Mountain pygmy possum

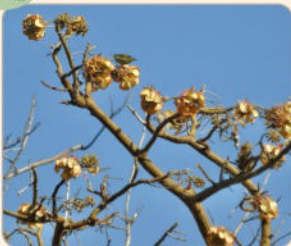


Park staff and students in Australia are working to save endangered mountain pygmy possums. By providing special biscuits to replace a lost food source, they've helped grow the population in Kosciuszko National Park from 700 to 950 possums.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 13 years for females, 5 years for males
- **HABITAT:** Rocky mountains in southeast Australia
- **SIZE:** 9.8 inches, weighing 1.4 ounces
- **DIET:** Bogong moths, insects, nectar, seeds, fruits
- **FUN FACT:** It's the only small mammal in Australia that hibernates under the snow in winter.



Good week / Bad week



Trees in Hawaii

After major wildfires in 2023, volunteers and businesses in Hawaii have helped restore the land by growing trees through the Treecovery Hawaii project. The initiative has cultivated 6,200 trees, including local species like the wiliwili (above).



Bananas

Rising temperatures, extreme weather, and pests are affecting the growth of bananas, the world's most consumed fruit, across Latin America and the Caribbean. Research suggests these areas may no longer be able to grow bananas by 2080.



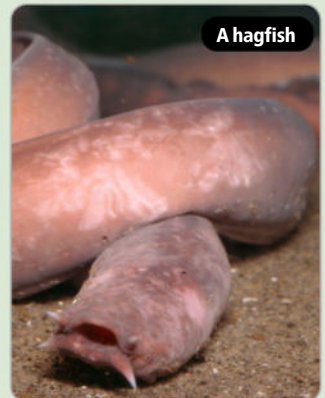
"How strong is hagfish slime?"

Lilly, 11, California

Rebecca Roland

Public affairs specialist,
National Park Service

Hagfish slime and spider silk are both made of proteins that are tightly lined up. Spider silk is five times stronger than steel, so in theory, pencil-thin strands could stop a speeding train. Hagfish slime, which is made up of flexible strands that are thinner than human hair, is even stronger.



A hagfish

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the National Park Service at nps.gov.



A fresh, fuzzy fruit

The history of peaches has spanned continents and centuries.

Peaches are a sweet staple of summer in the US. But they originated many miles away.

What is a peach?

Peaches are small- to medium-sized round stone fruits, which means they have a fleshy, edible exterior and a hard, stone-like pit with a seed inside.

The fruit comes from a pink

flowering tree and has a fuzzy red-orange to yellow exterior and flesh that can be yellow, white, or red. (A peach with smooth, fuzz-free skin is called a nectarine.) Scientists say peach fuzz protects the fruit's skin from insects and provides insulation to keep the moisture inside from drying out. Late spring through late summer is considered the prime growing season for peaches. They are high in fiber and a good source of vitamins A and C.

Roots in Asia

The peach's scientific name, *Prunus persica*, means "from Persia." Research suggests, however, that peaches came from China. They have been cultivated there since the Neolithic period, about 9,000 years ago, and possibly as early as 6000 BCE. In China, peaches represented unity and immortality.

They were often depicted in ancient artwork, and peach blossoms were used as

wedding decorations to bring good fortune to newlyweds. The fruit made its way across Asia and into Europe via the Silk Road, an ancient trade route connecting China with Europe and the Mediterranean. In the 16th century, Spanish explorers brought peaches to the US.

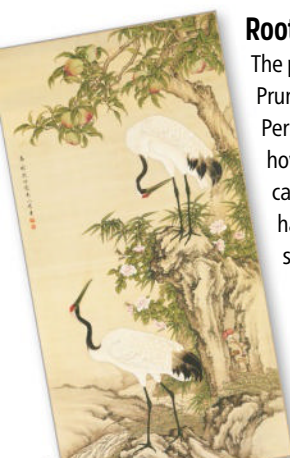
FRUIT AND NUTS
Peaches are closely related to almonds—both come from a type of *Prunus* tree.



Summer is peach-picking season!



Peach tree flowers



An 18th-century Chinese work of art showing cranes and a peach tree

GETTY IMAGES (5); JOY HOWARD



for summer



A 1940s postcard

JUST PEACHY
Georgia, known as the Peach State since the 1800s, had the peach designated its state fruit in 1995.

Make a peach smoothie

Ingredients

- ¼ cup vanilla yogurt
- ¾ cup frozen peaches
- ¼ cup pineapple
- ½ cup canned coconut milk
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 to 2 teaspoons honey (optional)
- Maraschino cherries (for garnish)
- Toasted coconut (for garnish)

Instructions

1. Combine the first six ingredients in a blender and purée until smooth.
2. Divide between two cups, and garnish each with a cherry and toasted coconut. Serve immediately. Makes 2 servings.



In the United States

Indigenous communities in North America played an important role in cultivating peaches brought by Europeans. In the second half of the 1800s, US farmers planted peach orchards. With the aid of improved railways and refrigerated railcars, peaches were introduced throughout the US. In the 1850s, father and son Louis and Prosper Berckmans bought land in Augusta, Georgia, for growing peaches. The site, called Fruitland, would eventually have more than 3 million peach trees. In the South, slavery was abolished with the end of the Civil War (1861–1865). Newly freed people needed employment and were hired as peach pickers. Their labor was essential to the success of peach crops, although they were rarely credited for their work.



A summer dessert of grilled peaches

A versatile fruit

Today, California is the leading peach-producing state in the US, with about 475,000 tons grown there each year, followed by South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Colorado, New Jersey, Michigan, Washington, and Georgia. China is the world's largest peach producer, followed by the European Union and Turkey. The annual Georgia Peach Festival features the "World's Largest Peach Cobbler," made with about 75 gallons of peaches. Other popular peach-based foods include peach pie, chilled peach soup, and grilled peaches. You can also make a peach smoothie (see our recipe at left).



**SUPER
SIZED**

White rhinos, which are the second-largest land mammal after elephants, can be up to 7 feet tall and weigh up to 5,300 pounds.



One of the last northern white rhinos

Hope for a rare rhino species

There are two northern white rhinoceroses left on Earth: a female named Najin and her daughter, Fatu. Without males, the animals cannot reproduce naturally, which means the species is on the brink of dying out. To address that problem, scientists are using DNA (a complex chemical that carries instructions for how a living thing should grow and develop) to try to breed more of the rhinos. In a major step toward that goal, they have created a genome of the species. This is a complete set of the animal's genes, which is like an instruction manual for how it should grow.

Years ago, scientists collected cell samples containing DNA from nine northern white rhinos that have since died. Using advanced genetic technology, researchers converted some of those cells into stem cells (special types of cells that can renew and change themselves). Now a team from Scripps Research (a medical research nonprofit), the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, and other organizations wants to use the stem cells to create embryos (unborn babies in the early stages of development).

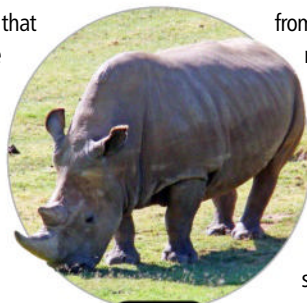
The team hopes to implant the embryos into female southern white rhinos, a species that's

closely related to northern white rhinos. Ideally, the southern rhinos could carry and give birth to northern rhino babies. But first, the scientists needed to make sure the stem cells were healthy. Typically, this is done by comparing the cells to a genome of the species. A northern white rhino genome did not exist, however, so they had to create one. They did so using cell samples

from Angalifu, a male northern white rhino that died in 2014. His cells had been preserved at the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Frozen Zoo (see box at right).

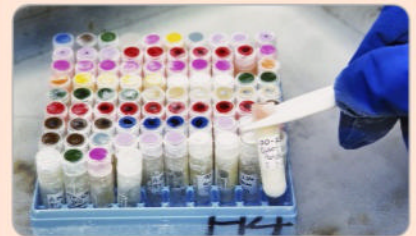
After mapping the genome, the team compared a group of stem cells to it and learned that some of them were not healthy enough to be used. Although that was disappointing, they also got some good news: They confirmed that northern and southern white rhinos are genetically very similar. This means that a southern white rhino is more likely to be able to carry a northern white rhino baby.

The scientists are now screening other stem cells to identify the set most capable of helping to preserve the species. Marisa Korody, a scientist who worked on the study, said the genome provides "a key piece of the puzzle."



Angalifu

The Frozen Zoo



Fifty years ago, the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance created the Frozen Zoo. The facility began collecting living cells and reproductive material from animals and plants long before scientists had figured out what to do with them. Now the "biobank" holds the world's largest collection of living genetic material, with more than 11,000 DNA samples (like the ones in the photo above) from 1,300 different species and subspecies, including three that are extinct and many nearing extinction.

The samples are frozen at -320°F and can be revived to extend the existence of a species. In this way, the organization hopes to slow the planet's loss of biodiversity (variety of living things). The Frozen Zoo hopes to collect genetic material from all endangered species on Earth by 2075.



Wheelchair for kids can be 3D printed

Designers released a prototype (test model) of a 3D-printed wheelchair for kids that could increase availability to the young people who need them. Wheelchairs can cost hundreds or thousands of dollars, putting them out of reach for many families.

MakeGood is a nonprofit in New Orleans, Louisiana, that builds adaptive devices and works to make everyday life more inclusive through design. Examples of MakeGood's products include a cuff that makes it easier for someone to hold a phone and palm devices to help people hold a pen or pencil.

MakeGood has made wheelchairs for kids before, but this is the first to be entirely 3D-printable. Every part of the

toddler mobility trainer (TMT), including its seat, tires, and straps, can be printed. This not only makes the chair more widely accessible to the public but also makes the design easily customizable to an individual user. Every part of the chair can also be reprinted and replaced if it breaks.

The organization said it will make the plans freely available to the public as soon as they are finalized so people can make TMTs at home. "We designed this to be modular and easy to make," said MakeGood's founder, Noam Platt. "Really anyone with a 3D printer and some filament can download the files and print it." Platt also said the plans should be adjustable so people can print larger models as children grow.

DID YOU KNOW?
The first self-powered wheelchair was invented by a German scientist named Stephen Farfler in 1655.



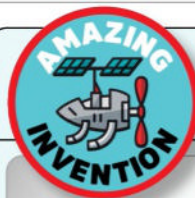
Egg drop results are surprising

In the popular science lesson known as the egg drop challenge, students create a protective structure to keep an egg from breaking when it's dropped. Young scientists are often told that eggs in a horizontal position are more likely to break than vertical ones.

Scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology recently set out to test this theory. They dropped 60 eggs from a variety of small distances. The eggs were positioned horizontally and vertically.

The researchers were surprised to find that horizontal eggs cracked less often because their shells absorbed some of the shock from the fall. Eggs dropped vertically, however, landed on a stiffer part of the shell that was less flexible and more likely to break.

The scientists suspected that people believe horizontal eggs are more fragile because we turn them on their sides to break them when we cook. The results reinforced the importance of conducting live experiments, they added.



A ring that works like a mouse



The new Ring Mouse combines fashion and technology. It connects to a phone, laptop, or tablet through Bluetooth and lets users scroll, swipe, click, and tap with a flick. With two buttons and a mini touchpad, people can take photos, zoom, search, or navigate in any direction.

The handy device comes in stainless steel or titanium and is waterproof, so it can be worn while washing hands or taking a shower. Ring Mouse powers up quickly and runs for up to 10 hours on a single charge. Its creators said it will be available to consumers soon.



Photos of the week

Pretty petals

A flower in Canada is covered in raindrops.



Classic moves

A flamenco dancer in Portugal performs during a gala.



GETTY IMAGES (6)

Photos of the week



Clever curves

People walk through an arched wooden pavilion in the UK.



Festive fashion

Women participate in a Pride Month parade in Thailand.



Who, me?

A great horned owl stares out from a tree in California.



Stunning view

Visitors to an immersive digital art exhibition in China gaze at a traditional ornate ceiling.



Sports

SPORTS TRIVIA

Sheffield FC, based in the UK, was founded in 1857 and is considered the world's first football (soccer) team.



Luis Suarez of Inter Miami (left) and Mohamed Hany of Al Ahly

Trophy details



The Club World Cup trophy (above) is plated in 24-karat gold. It is engraved with symbols related to the history of soccer and words in 13 languages, including Braille. It has movable parts and transforms from a flat shield into a spherical structure.

Club World Cup tournament begins

FIFA, the global governing body for soccer, has kicked off a new competition. The 2025 FIFA Club World Cup began on June 14 and is being played at 12 stadiums across the US. It is similar to the World Cup but features 32 professional club teams from 20 countries. The championship final is scheduled for July 13 at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

The Club World Cup replaces a competition that was held annually for a small group of regional champions. Now the teams in the tournament come from six global confederations: the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL), the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC), the Union of European Football Associations

(UEFA), the Confederation of African Football (CAF), and the Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association Football (Concacaf). To qualify for the competition, a club had to win a major continental tournament, such as the

UEFA Champions League in Europe or the Copa Libertadores in South America. Additional top teams were invited to play based on their records over the past few seasons. Like the World Cup, the Club World Cup will take place every four years.

Before the tournament, teams were divided into eight groups of four. Teams within each group compete in the Group Stage matches, then the top two from each one advance to the Round of 16, which begins the knockout rounds.

Among the teams that are favored to win are Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), which recently won the UEFA Champions League; Manchester City; and Real Madrid. The US is represented by three Major League Soccer (MLS) teams: Inter Miami CF, Los Angeles FC (LAFC), and Seattle Sounders FC. Some of the big-name stars competing include Lionel Messi (Inter Miami), Harry Kane (FC Bayern Munich), Kylian Mbappé (Real Madrid), and Erling Haaland (Manchester City).

The first match was between Inter Miami and Al Ahly FC, Egypt's top club, and ended in a 0–0 draw. Winners the next day were PSG, who dominated the Spanish team Atlético Madrid, 4–0; Germany's Bayern, who crushed New Zealand's Auckland City, 10–0; and Brazil's Botafogo, who defeated the Sounders, 2–1. On June 16, Chelsea FC, one of England's best clubs, beat LAFC, 2–0.



Kylian Mbappé

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

BASKETBALL

After missing five games with an injury, WNBA star Caitlin Clark returned to action for the Indiana Fever on June 14 and led her team to a 102–88 win over the New York Liberty. It was the first loss of the season for the Liberty, the league's defending champions. Clark scored 32 points in the game, which included seven three-pointers. She also dished out nine assists.



Caitlin Clark

FOOTBALL

In the UFL (United Football League) championship game on June 14, the DC Defenders beat the Michigan Panthers, 58–34. It is the Defenders' first title, and they are the first UFL team to score more than 50 points in a game. Their quarterback Jordan Ta'amu was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

AUTO RACING

A Ferrari driven by Robert Kubica, Yifei Ye, and Phil Hanson won the Le Mans 24 Hours race on June 15.



MAJOR EFFORT

Before winning the US Open, JJ Spaun had one career victory in 235 starts.



JJ Spaun

JJ Spaun wins exciting US Open

From June 12 to June 15, the 125th US Open Championship, one of golf's four major tournaments, took place at Oakmont Country Club in Plum, Pennsylvania. The winner was American JJ Spaun, who pulled off an impressive comeback to secure his first career major title.

Oakmont is ranked as the toughest course on the PGA (Professional Golfers' Association) Tour. It has several features that make it challenging. For example, the grass on its greens (the areas around each hole) is so short that balls roll on it as if they were on ice. The course also has 175 sand traps, including a massive one that spans 26,000 feet.

Spaun entered the final day in a tie for second place, one stroke behind the leader, Sam Braun, a fellow American. However, after getting a bogey (one over par) on five of his first six holes, Spaun

fell down the leaderboard. Just before he was set to play the ninth hole, there was a 96-minute weather delay. He used it as a reset, and when play restarted, he parred the next several holes. With six holes to go, five players, including Spaun, were tied for the lead.

Entering the 17th hole, Spaun was tied with Scottish golfer Robert MacIntyre, who had closed out his final round with a total score that was one over par. Spaun then put together a few of the best shots of his life. He made an incredible drive on the 17th hole that set him up for a birdie and a one-stroke lead. Then, only needing to par the 18th hole to win, he sank a 64-foot putt for a birdie to seal his victory. He was the only golfer to finish the weekend under par. MacIntyre finished in second, and Norway's Viktor Hovland came in third.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Windsyr Maughan

AGE: 22 SPORT: ROWING
TEAM: NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Sport switch I ran cross-country in high school and didn't start rowing until the spring of my sophomore year in college. My parents mentioned that rowing might be a good sport to look into. I really liked the team aspect of it. I also love being in nature and I love water, so it's kind of perfect.

Big obstacle I have exercise-induced asthma. I'm pleased with how I've been able to be successful despite it. Running was quite difficult, and rowing is also difficult. I've learned to manage it with breathing techniques.



Training plan In fall and early spring, we're on the water once a day, six days a week. In our extended season, we may practice twice a day. There's a meditative aspect of rowing. It's eight people in a boat, doing the same thing over and over. It's mind-numbing in a good way.

Mind work The night before a race, we have a boat meeting and talk about our plan. I like to do visualizations, so I'll sit down, set a timer for seven minutes, and walk myself through the race. It helps.

Life lesson During an actual race, I live in the moment, embrace the pain, and think about working as a team. Rowing is very challenging, mentally and physically. You have to find comfort in the uncomfortable and teach yourself to be OK with that. It's quite useful, even outside rowing.

Wise words A positive mindset can get you so much farther than you might think. Being a positive light source for yourself and your teammates, lifting each other up, and being confident in yourself and your team does a lot.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Dennis Flores**

Team: **Zeus (swimming)**

"Coach Dennis is a really great coach! He teaches us how to work hard and persevere. Before a swim meet, he always gives us a pep talk and lifts our spirits. I'm new to the team, but I always feel like I'm part of something special—a family. Zeus is a welcoming place, and I love it there. Dennis isn't just teaching us to swim, he's also helping us enjoy it. I'm proud that my team is in the top 10 of all Connecticut teams, and I love having Dennis as my coach." Meera, 9, Connecticut



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.



Arts and entertainment



DID YOU KNOW?
Squirrels are native to every continent in the world except Australia and Antarctica.



Three sculptures from Vivid Creatures

Fantastical creatures on display

The Morton Arboretum in Illinois is hosting an exhibition of colorful large-scale sculptures inspired by local animals.

The Morton Arboretum, an outdoor museum of trees located near Chicago, Illinois, is hosting a new art exhibition that mixes nature and imagination. *Vivid Creatures* features five colorful large-scale animal sculptures by artists Fez BeGaetz and Heather BeGaetz that are placed across the grounds.

The sculptures are modeled after a fox squirrel, blue dasher dragonfly, white-tailed deer, brittle button snail, and sandhill crane, all of which are native to the area. Amy Scott, head of exhibitions at

the arboretum, told *The Week Junior* that each creature comes with its own story about how it lives and what it represents. "The big message is: Everything in nature is connected," she said.

The arboretum staff found the Portland, Oregon-based artists online and invited them for a visit. "They were really inspired by what they saw—especially the animals," Scott said. They worked with a small team in their studio to create the sculptures, which are made of recycled steel topped with aluminum foil and covered with a cement-based mixture and paint. The

largest animal, a deer called Generosity, is 22 feet tall. Scamp the squirrel was modeled after the artists' daughter. When she visited the arboretum, she watched a squirrel while holding a ball, and Scamp holds a walnut the same way.

The sculptures were transported to Illinois on five semi-trucks, and each was then set in a specially chosen area. "Our crane and dragonfly sit near our lake since both animals are known to spend a lot of time near water," Scott said.

She also said she hopes visitors will "fall in love" with the animals and "start noticing the cool creatures and plants around home or school. Nature is awesome!"



Heather BeGaetz (left) and Fez BeGaetz

More art mixed with nature

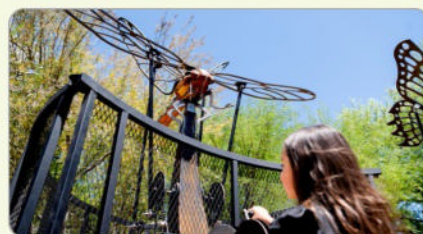


Van Gogh's Flowers

The New York Botanical Garden in New York City currently has a show honoring famous Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh. It includes a large installation (above) based on his painting *Irises* and re-creations of paintings with real flowers.

Beautiful Spirit: Art in Motion

In Arizona, the Tucson Botanical Gardens has new kinetic sculptures (ones that move) by artist Joe Benedict. One of them is a dragonfly (below) made of steel and wood. By turning hand pedals, visitors can make its wings flap.



Tremendous Topiaries

Sculptures of animals made out of plants are now on display at Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha, Nebraska. Among them are a lion (above), a fox, and flamingos. Different plants are used to represent fur, feathers, and other features.



MUSICAL FLASHBACK

Actress and singer Zendaya appeared in a Kidz Bop video for the song "Hot N Cold" when she was younger.



Kidz Bop performing

Kidz Bop summer tour underway

The popular group Kidz Bop recently kicked off their Kidz Bop Live Certified BOP Tour, which will run until the beginning of September and stop in more than 40 cities across the US. It features four current members of the group—Aleah, Cliff, Matty, and Shila—performing songs that include covers of Sabrina Carpenter's "Espresso" and Chappell Roan's "Hot to Go!"

Kidz Bop has been around since 2001 and is known for singing family-friendly versions of popular songs. The Kidz Bop members change periodically, and new ones are chosen out of thousands who audition as part of nationwide casting calls. More than 24 million Kidz Bop albums have been sold, and the group has more than 5 billion YouTube video views. *Kidz Bop 50*, the most recent album, was released this spring.



Aleah

Aleah, age 17, is in her second year with the group. She told *The Week Junior* that this summer's show will be brand-new, though it will include the fan-favorite "Daddy Dance-off." One of the songs she is excited to perform is "Certified Bop," an original song from the new album. "It's

so catchy," she said. She is also looking forward to singing Benson Boone's "Beautiful Things." During the show, concertgoers can expect to see her group-mates on drums, guitar, and piano, which isn't typical for Kidz Bop performers. "I feel like we're more of a band this year," Aleah said.

"We're going to be showing our different talents, other than just dancing and singing."

Aleah said the goal of the tour is to make sure audiences have fun. "Everyone should expect to have the best night of their lives because that's what we're here to do—give them a good show."



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



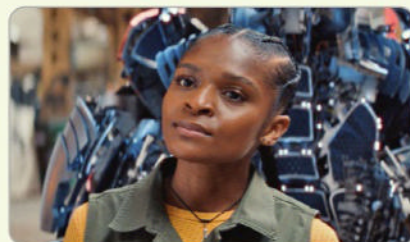
Paddington in Peru (Netflix)

The third film in the Paddington franchise is now streaming. In this adventure, the marmalade-loving bear returns to his homeland of Peru with the Brown family to search for his missing Aunt Lucy. In the process, they must uncover the secrets of the legendary lost city of El Dorado.



The Day the Earth Blew Up: A Looney Tunes Movie (Max)

Looney Tunes characters Porky Pig and Daffy Duck famously do not get along, but after their antics at a bubble gum factory lead them to discover an alien mind-control plot, they work together and become unlikely heroes.



Ironheart (Disney+)

In the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Riri Williams is a brilliant teen inventor who builds high-tech suits of armor. The character was introduced in the film *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. In her own new series, rated TV-14, she helps protect Chicago from the villain The Hood.



READER RECOMMENDS

Oddballs (Netflix)

"This is one of my favorite TV shows. It revolves around James, a bubble-shaped animated character that originated on the popular YouTube channel TheOdd1sOut. The show follows James and his talking crocodile best friend, Max, as they go on hilarious and wacky adventures. Along the way, they meet Echo, a girl from the future who travels back in time on a mission to find junk food. There are two seasons of the series so far, and when I finished them, I wanted a third season so badly! If you like laughs and action, this is the perfect show for you!" Chris, 11, New York



Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



On screen

SUNKEN TREASURES

There are an estimated 3 million undiscovered shipwrecks in oceans around the world.



Survival Kids

A fun game filled with teamwork

Survival Kids is a new co-op survival game. It was recently released exclusively for the Nintendo Switch 2.

The original Survival Kids was released for Nintendo's Game Boy Color in 1999 and was followed by sequels on the Game Boy and other platforms. A spin-off series, *Lost in Blue*, was later released on other Nintendo platforms. This is the first Survival Kids game since 2008, giving the franchise the chance to put a fresh spin on a familiar story.

In the game, four kids set sail on a rickety boat that gets blown off course, leaving them shipwrecked. The action is set on four big deserted islands, which are on the backs of giant creatures called Whurtles. Each island has many levels, which are packed with challenges and puzzles to solve. You play as one of the kids, and your first task is to find a

safe plot of land, harvest supplies, and build a base camp. The game also involves activities such as chopping wood, fishing, and cooking.

One element of Survival Kids that makes it special is that you can't do tasks all by yourself. Every major job requires the cooperation of at least two players to get it done. There are different ways to set up the game so you can play with other people. For example, two people can play on a split-screen in local co-op mode, and up to four can play online.

The game also takes advantage of the Nintendo Switch 2's new hardware features. With GameShare, up to three people can link their consoles, allowing people who don't own Survival Kids (or any other game) to play it. With GameChat, you can connect with friends online and talk to them too, which can be helpful as you work to get your shipwrecked characters home.



PODCAST OF THE WEEK

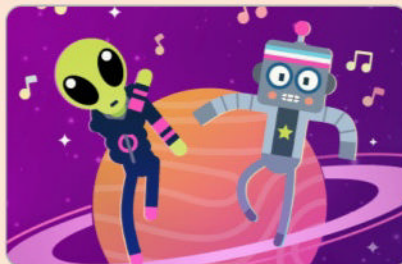
BRAVING THE ELEMENTS

Major podcast platforms

There is a new season of this popular show about Nickelodeon's *Avatar: The Last Airbender* and *The Legend of Korra*. Hosts Janet Varney (the voice of Korra) and Dante Basco (the voice of Prince Zuko) are chatting about *The Legend of Korra, Book 1 and 2* and talking to other members of the cast and crew.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK



CODE A DANCE PARTY

code.org/dance

Create a digital dance party using coding and artificial intelligence (AI). You'll pick avatars to be dancers and use code blocks to determine their moves and positions. You can add background graphics with the help of an AI program that suggests options from about 11,000 special effects.



GAME OF THE WEEK

UNO: ARCADE EDITION

Apple App Store

Fans of the classic card game Uno now have a new way to play it. This version has several game modes as well as new cards, including Wild Swap Hands, that will add extra excitement to the action. You can play the game online or offline, with friends, or by yourself.





SUMMER OF READING FEATURED PICK

A Hero's Guide to Summer Vacation

By Pablo Cartaya

(Kokila)

Gonzalo's grandfather writes a best-selling fantasy book series for kids, but Gonzalo has never read a word of it. His grandfather, Alberto, is often grouchy and prefers to be alone. But to promote the final book in a series, Alberto decides to go on tour, and he takes Gonzalo with him. Alberto soon fires their driver and gets behind the wheel of his blue 1968 convertible. While traveling from California to Florida, Gonzalo begins reading Alberto's books. He also starts to talk about the death of his father, who was an environmental scientist. When Alberto stops to see friends, Gonzalo learns about his grandfather's childhood in Cuba, and he notices connections between his grandfather's life and what he writes about in his books. After they have passed through Utah, Kansas, and Tennessee, Gonzalo's mom joins them, and the adventure takes another turn. This story is brimming with humor and suspense. If you're a fan of the author's other books, you'll notice that a few characters briefly reappear in this story.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

A family road trip comes to life in *A Hero's Guide to Summer Vacation*. This adventure is full of laughs while also delving into themes of belonging. Here are questions to get a conversation going with friends and family who have also read the book.

Were you surprised that Gonzalo hadn't read his grandfather's books?

How did Gonzalo's mom change the dynamic of the road trip?

What was the turning point in Gonzalo and Alberto's relationship?



If you've been on a road trip, what part of the book did you most relate to?

How is Gonzalo able to express the grief he feels over the loss of his father on the road trip?

Does Alberto's fantasy book series remind you of any you've read in real life? If so, which one?

Our list of "The 50 Books Kids Love Most," details about entering our Summer of Reading sweepstakes, and more can be found at kids.theweekjunior.com/summerofreading.



Ask the Author Ambassador



Pablo Cartaya is the award-winning author of *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* and *Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish*. *A Hero's Guide to Summer Vacation* debuted on *The New York Times* bestseller list.

How did the story evolve?

I handed in my first draft in 2020, and it was a very different book than it is now. It didn't even have a road-trip element. My editor told me that any first draft doesn't have to be good. It's more important to get your ideas down.



Were you nervous when the book was due?

I was scared to turn in my final manuscript. I thought people wouldn't like it. I was relieved when I got an amazing response!

What was a defining moment in your life?

I was a performer before I was a writer, and I acted in television shows. One day, a casting director suggested I change my name because I didn't look like I was Cuban. I did use a different name for a while, but my dad was very upset. The legacy of my name is tied to my family, my community, and my culture. I decided that I wasn't going to let someone dictate the terms of my identity, so I changed my name back.

Best writing advice for kids?

Find the story that doesn't want to let go. We all have a lot of great ideas, but sometimes there's that idea that just keeps coming back.

Do you like road trips?

Yes! My family and I have driven from Texas to New York and from Florida all the way up to Vermont.

What state would you most want to visit next?

Alaska—I'd love to catch a salmon.





How to...

POPULAR SUBJECTS

There are more than 86,000 insect species and over 800 bird species in North America.



Take stunning pictures of nature

Explore the beauty all around you with photography.

Nature photography is about capturing the many natural wonders beyond your door. All you need is a camera—or a device with a camera—to document what you find. You won't have to look far for subjects to shoot. "Just stepping outside into nature—and seeing birds or insects or stars—will give you inspiration," professional nature photographer Angela Ledyard told *The Week Junior*. Here's how to get started.

Pick a setting

First, choose where you want to take nature photos. "You can start with a yard or a local park," says Ledyard. You could shoot local wildlife like squirrels, take close-ups of flowers, or zoom in on interesting details like raindrops on a leaf. As you get more experience, you can work up to larger settings, like a nature preserve or a state park.

Experiment with natural light

Try taking photos at different times of day and in various kinds of weather. Clouds can create a dramatic sky, while rain can give a glossy sheen to rocks and plants. Two of the best times to shoot are during the "golden hours" each day—just after the sun rises and right before it sets. This is when the sun casts a gentle, natural glow that's

ideal for photos. Any time you shoot outside, consider the sun's position over your subject. For example, if you want to get a shot of an animal in front of a landscape, you should have the sun to your back so the light is shining on your subject.

Frame your shots

When you're taking pictures, Ledyard advises thinking about the composition—what you see inside the frame of your shot. When you're about to take a photograph, look through the viewfinder of your camera or on your phone screen and turn the camera a little to the right, then left. Observe how this changes the shot. Experiment with different angles. Point your camera toward the ground or up to the sky to capture those vantage points as well.

Keep practicing

The best way to become a stronger nature photographer is to continue experimenting. If you want to learn more technical skills, you might consider taking a photography class. Your school might offer one, or ask an adult to help you check with local art centers. You can also enter our Nature Photo Contest! Get to know the judges at right, and see the entry form on the opposite page.



Try a close-up of a flower.

Meet the judges

Jesse Burke

He enjoys documenting road trips and life on his farm with his kids. He also captures humans' relationship with nature. See his work at jesseburke.com.



Angela Ledyard

Thanks to her grandfather, she was drawn to photography as a child. Her subjects range from sunrises to the Milky Way. See her work at angelaledyard.com.



Ami Vitale

She is considered one of the most influential conservation photographers working in the profession today. See her work at amivitale.com.





Enter our Nature Photo Contest!



The winning images from last year's contest

Do you enjoy taking photographs of plants, flowers, trees, and wildlife? When you're outdoors, are you often trying to capture the amazing beauty of the natural world? If so, now is your chance to use your creativity, curiosity, and skills to enter The Week Junior's annual Nature Photo Contest.

The deadline to enter is July 28!

How to enter

- **Consider the judging criteria.** Submissions will be judged on quality (clear, well-composed photographs that aren't blurry), originality (the use of creativity and imagination through the camera lens), and how well they reflect the nature theme and *The Week Junior*. Entries must be original and not generated or altered by artificial intelligence.
- **Choose one photo to enter.** Only one photograph per entrant is allowed.
- **Fill out this form.** With a parent, complete an entry form and submit it by July 28, 2025.
- **Enter the correct age group category.** Children ages 8 to 10 will be judged in one category. Children ages 11 to 14 will be judged in another category. Winners will be selected from each category. The entry form for 8- to 10-year-olds is at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-2025PhotoContest-8-10. The entry form for 11- to 14-year-olds is at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-2025PhotoContest-11-14.

NO PURCHASE OR SUBSCRIPTION NECESSARY. Open to legal residents of US, DC, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, 8–14 years. Professional artists are not eligible. Ends 11:59:59 p.m. ET 7/28/2025. Void where prohibited. See official rules at theweekjunior.com/photocontestrules. Sponsor: Future US LLC.

The judges

The Nature Photo Contest will be judged by Editorial Director Andrea Barbalich, Creative Director Dean Abatemarco, and Photo Editors Nataki Hewling and Lily Alt. The entries will also be judged by three award-winning professional photographers: Jesse Burke, Angela Ledyard, and Ami Vitale.

The prize

The winning entries may be featured in an upcoming issue of *The Week Junior*.



Puzzles



Keyword crossword

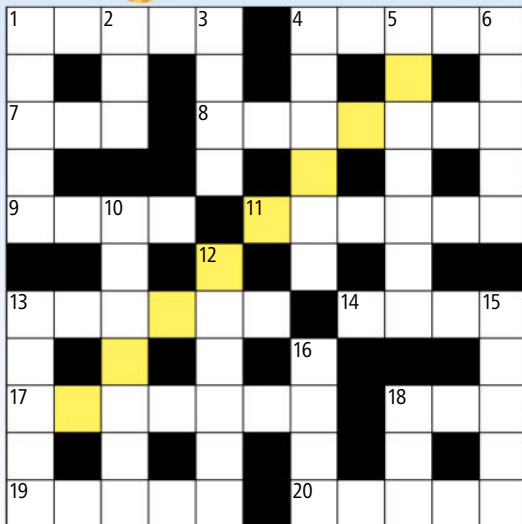
Once you have completed the crossword, transfer the letters in the yellow boxes, in order, into the boxes below to get the answer to the Keyword question.

ACROSS

- Result you get when you add numbers
- What Wile E. Coyote often falls off while chasing the Road Runner
- It's found in honeycombs and ears
- Creature whose name starts with the Latin word for "eight"
- A genie's home before he is summoned
- Passageways between theater seats
- Einstein-level thinker
- Someone older than 12 but not yet 20
- Colorful sighting in the daylight sky
- Container for jelly or pickles
- Technology using sound waves to find objects
- The duplicate that makes a pair

DOWN

- Beach item to lie on
- Extra fee applied to many purchases
- Animal called the King of the Jungle
- Herb that drives kitties wild
- Sudden strong urge to do something without thinking about it too much
- Tightly clenched hands
- Huge ornate house owned by wealthy people
- Wood boards used by carpenters
- Bacteria, viruses, and other illness-causing organisms
- Direction usually "up" on a map
- Do the backstroke or the butterfly
- Super-fast plane



Keyword question: What little-known creation was stolen in 1911 and only became world famous when it was recovered more than two years later?

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CODE CRACKER

In this coded list of green foods, every letter has been replaced with a substitute. The same substitutions are used throughout the list. Hint: Every X here is an uncoded L. Use the letter patterns you find to crack the code.

L						
X	Z	N	N	P	J	Z

J	P	J	P	A	F	Z

						L
F	D	M	J	J	M	X

L			
X	T	A	Z



ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

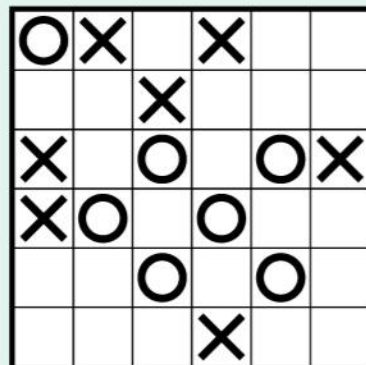
THREE FOR ALL

Sort this list into three familiar three-part phrases, like THREE-RING CIRCUS or SALT LAKE CITY. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

OF INNING IT LUCK STRIKE
STRETCH OUT RICH SEVENTH

Hit or miss

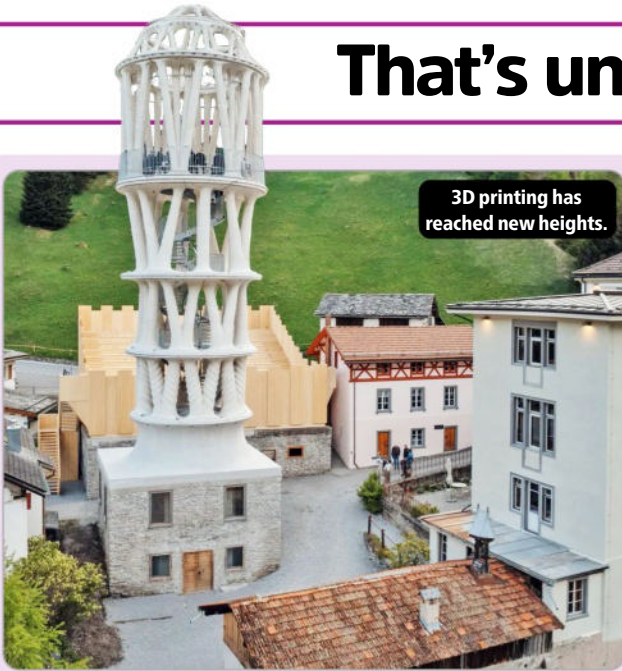
Place an X or O in each empty square so there are never more than three X's or O's together in a row, column, or diagonal. Hint: If you find three in a row of one letter, you can put the other letter into the spaces at either end.



Spot the difference

These two pictures of lounge chairs on a beach appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





3D printing has reached new heights.

Technology's towering achievement

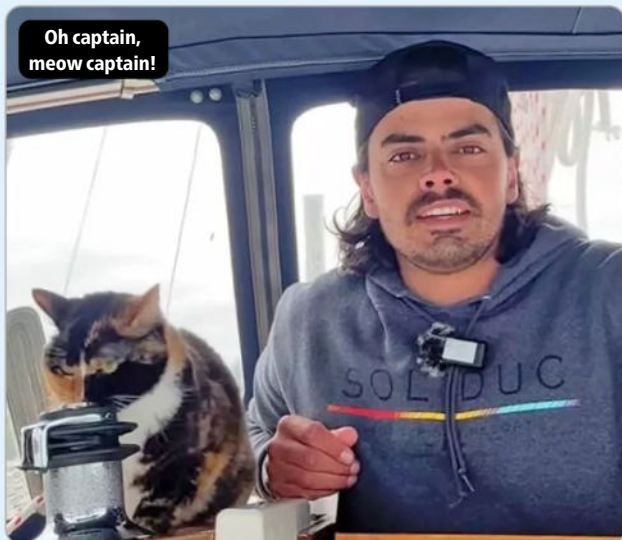
The tallest 3D-printed building in the world has opened in Switzerland. Tor Alva, which means "white tower" in the local Romansh language, is 98.5 feet tall. To produce its 32 intertwined columns, a robot squeezed out thousands of layers of concrete, and another machine created steel reinforcements. Visitors can climb the building's spiral staircase to enjoy 360-degree views of the village of Mulegns, which has 11 residents. Soon, theatrical performances will be held in a theater inside the tower.



Stepping on a Lego has never been so comfortable.

New kicks based on Lego bricks

The world's biggest toy company and the world's biggest shoe company have decided to collaborate just for kicks. Lego and Nike revealed that they will introduce new sneaker designs in August and September—in time for back-to-school shopping. One pair is brightly yellow and features dimples that mimic the texture of a Lego brick, while the second style is white with black outlines that look like they were drawn with marker. Nike said, "It's a place where sneakers and bricks collide, and the only limit is your imagination."



Oh captain, meow captain!

Epic voyage with a feline first mate

Oliver Widger has completed what he called "the journey of a lifetime." In April, the 29-year-old set sail from Oregon with his pet cat, Phoenix. Widger had taught himself how to sail with the help of YouTube videos, hoping to travel around the world by boat. For his first voyage, Widger sailed to the Hawaiian island of Oahu, documenting the monthlong trip on social media for millions of followers. Widger said he plans to continue traveling, but first he'll "snorkel for...30 days and just look at fish."

Real or fake?



Did it run a-fowl of the law?

Duck caught speeding—again

Have you ever heard of a speeding duck? Police in Switzerland said they spotted a mallard zooming past a traffic camera near the capital, Bern. The offender was clocked traveling at more than 30 miles per hour, well over the speed limit of 19 miles per hour. Stranger still, police said they saw a similar duck flying past the same spot, at the same speed and on the same day in 2018, so it could be a repeat offender. What do you think? Is this real, or is it a lame duck story?*

*Real! Traffic cameras caught an image of the duck as it zoomed by. Some people wondered if it was a late April Fools' Day joke, but the officers said it was impossible to fake a photo on the speed camera.



Your turn

Editor's note

When I read the story about the incredible efforts scientists are making to save the northern white rhinoceros from extinction, I knew it would make an intriguing cover story for *The Week Junior* (p14). After all, the northern white rhino is one of the rarest animals on Earth. There are only two left, and they're both female, which means the species will die out unless urgent action is taken. That's where the scientists come in. Using cutting-edge technology and rhinoceros cells that were frozen years ago, they are trying to revive the population. It will take time to know whether they are successful—but for now, there is hope for the rhinos as well as other species in danger. "We're getting closer to being able to rescue animals that otherwise might go extinct during our lifetimes," said Jeanne Loring, one of the researchers. "This is great progress not only for white rhinos but for the entire field of animal conservation."



Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

Promoting a positive message

“I wrote a book to help combat weight stigma and weight-based stereotypes in our communities. The book is titled *Love Yourself*, and it follows a bold, brave, and beautiful plus-size girl as she embarks upon a journey of self-discovery, acceptance, and self-love. I wanted to show the power of self-confidence and resilience when facing challenges like teasing and discrimination. If I could send any message to readers, it would be to love yourself fully because you are perfect exactly as you are.”



Arianna, 13, Nevada

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK
What can be thrown but not caught?
A party

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Reader to Reader

This organization provides learning opportunities to students living in underserved communities. It donates books and computers to inner-city schools and rural public libraries, pairs students with adult mentors, and helps high school students with their college applications. Since 2001, it has donated millions of educational resources to schools and libraries across the US. Find out more at readertoreader.org.



SUMMER OF READING Enter to win books!

This is the third issue of our Summer of Reading campaign! We hope you enjoy our interview with Author Ambassador Pablo Cartaya and a review of his new book *A Hero's Guide to Summer Vacation* (p23). Our reading challenge continues! Once you've finished any three books, go to tinyurl.com/TWJUS-ReadingChallenge2025 with an adult to enter our sweepstakes. Five kids will win! All winners will be drawn at random. The deadline to enter is August 8. For our list of "The 50 Books Kids Love Most," go to kids.theweekjunior.com/summerofreading.



THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Your turn



YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"I made the pepperoni pizza pepper poppers and they turned out super yummy. Thanks for the great recipe!" **Caleb, 7, California**

"Seeing the cover of *The Week Junior* made me want to play basketball. Feeling inspired!"

Vera, 9, New York



"I took *The Week Junior* on a road trip to the beach!" **Gus, 10, Utah**



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mrs. Langtry**

School: **Bennie Elementary School**

"I'd like to nominate my second-grade teacher because she cares about everyone's education. Mrs. Langtry is funny and tells us it's OK to make mistakes. She also reminds us to be quiet when some people are loud. She helps me with math after school, and she cares about me. Mrs. Langtry wants us all to be successful."

Victoria, 8, Michigan

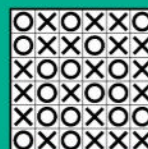
Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!

Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

T	O	T	A	L	C	L	I	F
W	A	X	O	C	T	O	P	U
E	L	A	M	P	A	I	S	L
G	E	N	I	U	S	T	E	E
E	S	M	S	T	E	E	O	
R	A	I	N	B	O	J	A	R
M	O	E	I	E	T			
S	O	N	A	R	M	A	T	C

Keyword answer: **Mona Lisa**



Code cracker

lettuce
cucumber
broccoli
lime

Three for all

strike it rich
out of luck
seventh inning stretch



Quiz answers (from page 30)

- 1 Biscuits 2 True 3 c) Illinois 4 a) 2 5 False. They came from China. 6 Whurtles
7 a) 2001 8 False. They are less likely to break if they are dropped in a horizontal position.
9 Vortexes 10 True 11 c) Yurok 12 His grandfather 13 True 14 b) 18 15 c) Nike

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your first name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 What are Kosciuszko National Park staff feeding mountain pygmy possums to replace a lost food source?

2 True or false? Chris Sanders originally came up with the idea for Lilo & Stitch as a children's book.

True ☐ False ☐

3 The Vivid Creatures exhibition is at an arboretum in which state?

- a) Indiana
- b) Iowa
- c) Illinois

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 How many northern white rhinos are left on Earth?

- a) 2
- b) 20
- c) 200

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 True or false? Peaches originally came from Persia.

True ☐ False ☐

6 The islands in the game Survival Kids are on the backs of giant creatures called what?

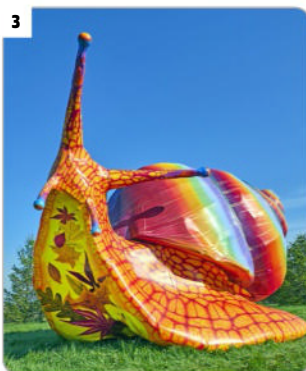
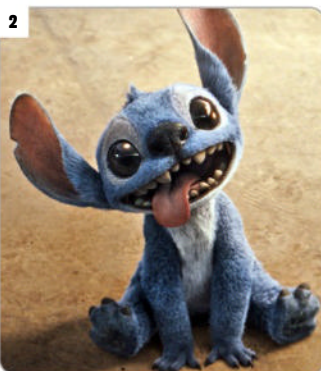
7 The popular musical group Kidz Bop has been around since what year?

- a) 2001
- b) 2011
- c) 2021

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

8 True or false? Eggs are less likely to break if they are dropped in a vertical position.

True ☐ False ☐



9 What tornado-like features do flamingos create underwater when they feed?

10 True or false? JJ Spaun recently won his first career major golf title at the US Open.

True ☐ False ☐

11 What tribe in California recently had land along the Klamath River returned to it?

- a) Yana
- b) Yokuts
- c) Yurok

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 In the book A Hero's Guide to Summer Vacation, who does Gonzalo accompany on a book tour?

13 True or false? Hawaii's Kilauea volcano recently began erupting for the 25th time since last December.

True ☐ False ☐

14 How many countries signed the High Seas Treaty at the third United Nations Ocean Conference?

- a) 11
- b) 18
- c) 49

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 Which shoe company is working with Lego to create new sneaker designs?

- a) Adidas
- b) New Balance
- c) Nike

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.

THE WEEK Junior

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Keep kids reading all summer long!

The Week Junior invites our readers to jump into a summer of super adventures through our Summer of Reading challenge.

Reading can take kids anywhere they can think of. They can be the hero of a thousand stories, this summer and beyond.

Bring along a friend, create a summer book club, or give a gift of *The Week Junior* and treat another child to a summer of reading adventures.

**Makes
a great
gift!**

**To order a 25 weekly issue subscription
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**MARINE
HAVEN**

Little Lagoon in Western Australia's Shark Bay features red sand hills and calm, clear water where dolphins, turtles, sharks, and rays live.